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The Institute of Sacred Literature

A POPULAR READING COURSE IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Within recent years sufficient has been said, both in public and in private, upon the subject of religious education, to bring many people to feel that a true science of education must include the religious element, and needs for its development people who are as well equipped for teaching children on the side of the religious life, as those who guide them in the studies of the secular schools. This new vitality in religious education has perhaps a greater interest for the parent than any other department of education; first, because of the lack of confidence in the ability of the ordinary teacher in the secular school to handle religious teaching; and, second, because opportunities for giving the right bent to conduct and ideals occur most frequently in the home.

But the conscientious parent too often does not possess the knowledge of materials or methods with which to handle the problem intelligently in the home, and needs to be made acquainted with the progress of modern thought in religious education. The same is true with relation to the teacher who wishes to be equipped for the education of the child upon the religious as well as the intellectual side.

It is with pleasure that the Institute of Sacred Literature announces a Course of Reading, the primary aim of which will be to acquaint those who undertake it with the best modern literature in the field of religious education. Since many persons have not the time to carry on both a course of Bible study and a course of general religious reading the work has been arranged to include biblical material as well as modern books on religious education. The reading of one book will be assigned to each month from October to June. Preceding the reading of each biblical or other book, the reader will be furnished with a series of suggestions, cautions, questions for consideration, and with an estimate of the book, prepared by a specialist in the same field. A special topic will be assigned, upon which the student may submit a paper for criticism. If such a paper is sent in each month, he will receive a certificate at the conclusion of the course.

For the year just about to commence the books selected will include four books of the Bible, a general discussion of the Bible from the modern

point of view, the teaching of Jesus applied to modern ethical problems, the principles of education in religion and morals, the practical application of these principles to the problems of the Sunday school, and a biographical work. In the selection of material some regard has been paid to the fact that the subject for general study in the Sunday schools using the International lessons will be for one year, from January 1, the Life of Christ.

The reading for the year will be arranged as follows:

October.—DODS, *The Bible, Its Origin and Nature*; a book giving the views of one of the most careful and painstaking scholars on the Bible as it may today be interpreted, in the light of modern constructive scholarship.

November.—*The Book of Job*; an example of a piece of biblical literature which is a unit in itself, and yet is indissolubly connected with the history, the events of which furnished in some measure the origin of its philosophy.

December.—HYDE, *Jesus' Way*; an interpretation of the principles laid down by Jesus, and their application to modern social and religious conditions—a theme which has been frequently presented, but possibly nowhere so simply and effectively as in this volume.

January.—*The Gospel according to Matthew*; a portion of the New Testament which will be of special interest to those who enter upon the study of the Life of Christ, with the International lessons, on January 1.

February.—COE, *Education in Religion and Morals*; a careful and detailed discussion of the nature of the religious life of the child, and the principles which may safely be followed in deepening and directing that life. Professor Coe is one of the few men who have seriously investigated the psychology of religion in its application to the child.

March.—*The Book of Genesis*. This book is introduced at this point because of its special interest to children, and in order that through it may be illustrated some of the principles of teaching set forth by the book used in the preceding month.

April.—BURTON AND MATHEWS, *Principles and Ideals for the Sunday School*; a book in which is discussed from a modern pedagogical standpoint, the problems of the graded curriculum, instruction, the training of teachers, and the duty of the home and the church in relation to the Sunday school.

May.—*The Gospel of John*; a book which combines, with the historical presentation of the Life of Jesus, the element of interpretation of that life for the contemporaries of the author, giving larger place to this latter element than either of the other gospels.

June.—DAWSON, *Life of Christ*; a modern interpretation of the Life of Jesus by an English evangelistic preacher of wide reputation. Its style is as fascinating as that of a novel, and its imagery cannot fail to give its readers many suggestions for thought.

By consulting the advertising pages of this issue of the *Biblical World*, it will be seen that several favorable combination offers are made by the Institute in the furnishing of these books, singly or in sets. Access to them is to be further facilitated by requests to public libraries to place the series on their shelves. For the benefit of students who may not be able to secure the books, by purchase or from local libraries, a limited number will be loaned in sets by the University of Chicago Library on payment of a small fee.

While perhaps the majority of the readers of the *Biblical World* have kept in touch with the progress of thought in connection with religious education, each of these readers comes into contact daily with numbers of persons who are not familiar with this literature, and who may not even yet have awakened to the need of such acquaintance. It can hardly be necessary for us to urge the readers of the *Biblical World* not only to familiarize themselves with this course of reading, but to assist us in introducing it to all people within their reach, who might be interested. Especially does the Institute feel justified in asking the fullest co-operation of ministers, since educational work of this character is primarily the province of the pastor.